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Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07

ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-02 NSC-05 OMB-01 DHA-02 IO-13

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:GACHESTER:DHT
APPROVED BY EUR/CE:DANDERSON
L/T:GBELL(INFO)
EUR/RPE:WSALISBURY(INFO)
---------- 032480
R 061353Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195322

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, GW

SUBJECT: GDR WEIGHS IN ON BORDER INCIDENTS

1. ON AUGUST 5, SECOND SECRETARY SWITALLA OF GDR EMBASSY CAME IN TO DEPT TO EXPRESS HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON RECENT SPATE OF FRG-GDR BORDER INCIDENTS. HE CLAIMED THAT THE STARTING POINT OF THE INCIDENTS WAS FROM THE TERRITORY OF THE FRG, AND THAT IT WAS
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THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FRG TO STOP THEM. HE SAID

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SUCH INCIDENTS WERE NOT SUITED TO THE FURTHER RELAXATION
OF TENSION AND COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON
STABILITY IN EUROPE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT
WISHES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE FRG, BUT SAID
THAT SUCH INCIDENTS ON THE STATE BORDER OF THE GDR
BURDEN THIS PROCESS. DEPTOFF REPLIED THAT INCIDENTS
WHICH RESULT IN INJURY OR DEATH ESPECIALLY TO THOSE
WHO APPROACH THE BORDER INADVERTANTLY, ARE DEPLORABLE,
AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT RESTRAINT SHOULD BE
SHOWN BY THE GDR IN ORDER TO AVOID PHYSICAL HARM.

2. SWITALLA ATTEMPTED TO RAISE QUESTION OF WEST
BERLIN REPRESENTATION IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. DEPTOFF
TOLD HIM THIS WAS NOT A SUBJECT WHICH WE WERE
WILLING TO DISCUSS WITH HIS GOVERNMENT.

3. SWITALLA SAID THAT COUNSELOR MONTAG WOULD BE CHARGE
AT THE EMBASSY UNTIL MID SEPTEMBER. HE MENTIONED THAT
MONTAG WOULD BE COMING TO THE DEPARTMENT ON AUGUST 20
TO ACCEDE FOR THE GDR TO THE CONVENTION ON THE
PREVENTION OF MARINE POLLUTION BY DUMPING OF WASTES
AND OTHER MATTER OF DECEMBER 29, 1972. HE SAID THE GDR
WILL ALSO DEPOSIT ITS INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION IN LONDON
AND MEXICO CITY ON THE SAME DAY. HE DID NOT MENTION
MOSCOW, BUT PRESUMABLY THE GDR WILL ACCEDE THERE ALSO. HABIB

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To: BERLIN
Type: TE
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